

Message Text

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47

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 L-03 FRB-03

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R 130320Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4533

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, UNCTAD, MY

SUBJECT: UNCTAD COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS: U.S. VIEWS ON ROLE OF
UNCTAD SECRETARIAT

REFS: (A) STATE 208183; (B) KUALA LUMPUR 4447

1. AS REQUESTED REFTEL, WE DISCUSSED ROLE OF UNCTAD
SECRETARIAT IN COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS WITH MINISTRY
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES UNDERSECRETARY INDER SINGH KHOSA WHO
ATTENDED UNCTAD MEETINGS MANILA, GENEVA AND NAIROBI
AND IS ATTENDING UNCTAD MEXICO, EMPHASIZING POINTS CONTAINED
PARA 13 REFTEL.

2. RE EXISTING COMMODITIES AGREEMENTS, GOM VIEW, AS
DESCRIBED BY INDER SINGH KHOSA, IS THAT SHOULD NEED ARISE,
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CONSULTATIONS WITH UNCTAD SHOULD BE AVAILABLE AT OPTION

OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. WHERE NO COMMODITY ENTITY EXISTS, GOM VIEW IS THAT UNCTAD CONSULTATIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN GENEVA.

3. RE INDEPENDENT FORUMS, SPECIFICALLY THE INTERNATIONAL RUBBER STUDY GROUP IN CASE OF RUBBER, INDER SINGH KHOSA STATED THAT RUBBER CONSULTATIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE IN GENEVA UNDER UNCTAD AUSPICES ALTHOUGH WITHOUT BEING EXPLICIT, HE SUGGESTED THAT IRSG WOULD HAVE A ROLE IN CONSULTATIONS. INDER SINGH KHOSA ACCEPTS OUR STATEMENTS THAT IRSG HAS CONSIDERABLE EXPERTISE AND IS COMPRISED OF THOSE COUNTRIES HAVING REAL INTEREST IN RUBBER, BUT DID NOT RESPOND FURTHER. ALSO, HE DID NOT COMMENT SUBSTANTIVELY CONCERNING FAO FORUMS WHICH, IN CASE OF VEGETABLE OILS AND TIMBER, PRESENTLY ARE GIVEN LOWER PRIORITY BY GOM THAN RUBBER.

4. INDER SINGH KHOSA APPARENTLY HAD NOT FOCUSED CLOSELY ON QUESTION OF TIMING OF AN HOC COMMITTEE MEETING VIS-A-VIS INDIVIDUAL COMMODITY MEETINGS. HE APPRECIATED DESIRABILITY OF AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING AT EARLIER DATE BUT COMMENTED THAT SOME COMMODITY DISCUSSIONS WERE ON-GOING AND SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED WAITING FOR AD HOC COMMITTEE TO GEAR UP. HE DID NOT RESPOND TO PARTICIPATION QUESTION EXCEPT TO NOTE THAT, WHEREAS NOT ALL RUBBER PRODUCERS ARE MEMBERS OF IRSG, THEY ARE ALL MEMBERS OF UNCTAD.

5. COMMENT: IN CONSIDERING ITS INTEREST IN COMMODITIES, GOM SEES EVENTS FROM TWO PERSPECTIVES: AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL GOM SEES MOMENTUM GENERATED AT UNGA 7TH SS AND AT NAIROBI AS BEST POSSIBILITY OF EVENTUALLY ACHIEVING INTEGRATED PROGRAM, OF WHICH COMMON FUND IS MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT. GOM RECOGNIZES THAT AT BEST, THIS PROCESS WILL TAKE CONSIDERABLE TIME BEFORE REACHING AGREEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION. AT WORST, PROCESS COULD FAIL, IN WHICH CASE GOM PRESUMABLY WOULD FALL BACK ON DAKAR PROPOSAL FOR CREATION OF FUND BY LDCS. IN THE MEANTIME, GOM FEELS URGENCY IN ADDRESSING PROBLEM OF PRICE STABILIZATION OF TIN AND RUBBER. TIN, OF COURSE, ALREADY BEING HANDLED THROUGH ITA, BUT GOM SEES NEED FOR LARGER BUFFER STOCK BEYOND FINANCIAL CAPABILITIES OF PRODUCER COUNTRIES. GOM RESENTS FACT THAT MAJOR TIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSUMERS, INCLUDING US, DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO TIN BUFFER STOCK. PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE IS SUBSTANTIAL (AND, IN GOM VIEW, EQUITABLE) CONTRIBUTION BY CONSUMERS TO TIN BUFFER STOCK. THE QUESTION OF RUBBER IS MORE URGENT AND IMPORTANT FOR GOM. NATURAL RUBBER PRICE STABILIZATION AGREEMENT UNDER ANRPC IS EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED IN NOVEMBER 1976. DISCUSSION WITH CONSUMERS IS TO BE UNDER UNCTAD AUSPICES RATHER THAN IRSG BECAUSE, INTER-ALIA, IRSG IS SEEN BY MAJOR

NATURAL RUBBER PRODUCERS AS CONSUMER'S CLUB UNRESPONSIVE TO
PRODUCERS' REQUIREMENTS (REFTEL). IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES
GOM PROBABLY SEES ITS INTERESTS, IF NOT COINCIDING, BEING
FURTHERED BY SYG COREA'S ACTIONS. FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE,
IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THE GOM WOULD SUPPORT THE US POSITION
ON THESE MATTERS AT THIS TIME.
UNDERHILL

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